

The following is an Adobe Acrobat reproduction of the official

Community Relations Plan
for
Pioneer Oil Refining Company

No graphic illustrations are included with this electronic version, but are available with the printed versions as part of the Pioneer Oil Refining Company site repository records

at
Cortez Branch Public Library
2803 Hunter Blvd.
San Antonio, Texas

and/or

TNRCC Records Management Center
Austin, Texas

Scroll Down to View



TEXAS NATURAL RESOURCE CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Protecting Texas by Reducing and Preventing Pollution

Community Relations Plan

for

**PIONEER OIL REFINING COMPANY
STATE SUPERFUND SITE**

Somerset, Bexar County, Texas
May 2002

Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission
Remediation Division
12100 Park 35 Circle
Building D
Austin, Texas 78753
1-800-633-9363

www.tnrcc.state.tx.us/permitting/remed/superfund/index.html

TEXAS NATURAL RESOURCE CONSERVATION COMMISSION
Protecting Texas by Reducing and Preventing Pollution
Community Relations Plan
for the
PIONEER OIL AND REFINING COMPANY STATE SUPERFUND SITE
Somerset, Bexar County, Texas
May 2002

Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission
Remediation Division
12100 Park 35 Circle
Building D
Austin, Texas 78753
1-800-633-9363

www.tnrcc.state.tx.us/permitting/remed/superfund/index.html

COMMUNITY RELATIONS PLAN
for
PIONEER OIL REFINING COMPANY STATE SUPERFUND SITE
SOMERSET, BEXAR COUNTY, TEXAS

May 2002

Inquires relating to the Pioneer Oil Refining Company State Superfund Site
should be directed to:

Janie Montemayor
Community Relations Coordinator
Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission
Remediation Division

Physical Address: 12100 Park 35 Circle
Building D, MC-225
Austin, TX 78753

Mailing Address: MC-225
P.O. Box 13087
Austin, TX 78711-3087

Telephone: 1-800-633-9363
or
512-239-3844

E-Mail: jmontema@tnrcc.state.tx.us

Table of Contents

Overview of Community Relations Plan	1
Site Profile	1
Site Location and Description	1
Site Background and History	2
Chronological History of Site	2
Community Profile	4
Population & History of Somerset	4
History of Community Involvement	5
Specific Objectives of the Community Relations Program	6
Community Relations Techniques & Tools	7
Elected Officials	8
Area Media	9
Key Project Personnel	10
Program Document Repositories	11
Appendices	

Appendices

- I. *Texas Register* public notice regarding proposal of the Pioneer Oil Refining Co. site to the state Superfund registry. Published September 25, 1990.
- II. *San Antonio Express News* article regarding proposal of the Pioneer Oil Refining Co. site to the state Superfund registry. Published October 30, 1990.
- III. Site Location Map
- IV. Site Map

Community Relations Plan
for
Pioneer Oil Refining Company State Superfund Site
Somerset, Bexar County, Texas
May 2002

Overview of Community Relations Plan

This community relations plan (CRP) identifies issues of community concerns regarding the Pioneer Oil Refining Company State Superfund site, in Somerset, Bexar County, Texas. It also outlines the anticipated community relations activities to be conducted during each phase of activities at the Pioneer Oil and Refining site.

This Pioneer Oil Refining Company Community Relations Plan has been prepared to aid the Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission (TNRCC) in developing a community relations program tailored to the needs of the communities affected by the Pioneer Oil Refining Company site. The TNRCC will conduct community relations activities to ensure that the local public has input to decisions and access to information about Superfund activities at the Pioneer Oil Refining Company site.

The information in this plan is based primarily on the Resource Conservation Recovery Act (RCRA) 3012 Preliminary Assessment, the Hazard Ranking System (HRS) package, and the Pre-Statement of Work for the site.

Site Profile

Site Location and Description

Latitude 29°12'42"North and Longitude 98°38'55"West

The Pioneer Oil Refining Company is outside Somerset, Texas in Bexar County adjacent to the municipal sewage treatment plant at 20280 S. Payne Road. The city population is approximately 1,447 as of 2001. The Pioneer Oil Refining Company site is in an abandoned site. The surrounding land use is generally

residential and ranching. The property is bordered on the south side by an abandoned railroad track bed. The site contains two large surface impoundments and two brick tanks all of which contain a tarry hydrocarbon substance. The property is now owned by the City of Somerset.

Site Background and History

The facility has been inoperative since 1948. At the time the facility operated, it produced oil and oil products, including roofing tar. The City of Somerset purchased a 12 acre tract, which included the old refinery, in 1976 to 1977 for construction of a new sewage treatment plant. The potential hazards presented by this facility are ground water and surface water contamination. The potential for direct contact is also of concern since migration of the contamination has been documented on the adjacent property.

Chronological History of Site

Date	Activity
September 25, 1990	Legal notice was published in the <i>Texas Register</i> , (15 TexReg 5623-5624) describing the site, proposing the site to the state Superfund registry, and announcing that a public meeting to receive citizen comments would be held at the Community Center in Somerset on October 31, 1990.
April 01, 1992	Remedial Investigation started.
October 15, 1996	Remedial Investigation completed for the soils and sludge.
August 15, 1997	Baseline Risk Assessment completed on the soils and sludge.
October 15, 1997	Remedial Investigation on the groundwater was completed.
October 15, 1998	Baseline Risk Assessment was completed on groundwater.
June 15, 1999	A field investigation was conducted to accurately estimate the volume of contaminated soils and sludge.
October 15, 2000	The Feasibility Study for the stabilization of the sludge on site was completed.
September 28, 2001	TNRCC issued a work order for additional investigation activities to collect design data for the site remediation.

October 22, 2001	TNRCC issued a work order for an on-site pilot scale stabilization study using varying proportions of a mixture of the waste sludge in two impoundments with on-site soil and cement. The purpose was to collect design data for stabilization.
October 26, 2001	TNRCC completed collection of soil and groundwater samples to define the extent of contamination in the soil and groundwater. The identified contaminated soil was to be used as an onsite source for mixture with the pond sludge and cement.
January 15, 2002	TNRCC received the report on the pilot scale treatability study on stabilization of the impoundment sludge. The data obtained from the study was to be incorporated into the remedial design.
March 12, 2002	TNRCC received a pilot scale/feasibility study report from the consultant. It was reported that several mixtures of sludge, soil, cement and air fly ash were successfully stabilized. The consultant's study recommended stabilization and offsite disposal of the stabilized material from the impoundment.
March 14, 2002	TNRCC issued a work order to further delineate the area of soil contamination and to determine the excavation boundary of soil removal needed. This work order also authorized the consultant to conduct groundwater sampling and analyses in order to evaluate potential natural attenuation of groundwater contaminants.

Community Profile

Population & History of Somerset

Somerset is off State Highway 1604, fifteen miles southwest of San Antonio in Bexar County. It was named for a settlement that had begun in 1848 three miles farther south, in what is now Atascosa County, by a group of Baptist families from Southwest, Kentucky. Many of the residents of Old Somerset and nearby Bexar eventually moved to the new townsite. In 1913, while drilling for artesian water, oil was discovered. A boom followed. The town grew rapidly from 50 residents in 1925 to 700 in 1928; it was served by a state bank, a ten-room hotel, and several machine and blacksmith shops. A post office opened in 1920. In 1920 the Somerset Independent School District was formed.

The population of Somerset increased gradually during the late 1960s and 1970s, topping 1,000 in 1978. Somerset was incorporated in 1973 and has a mayor-council form of city government. In 1990 Somerset reported 1,144 residents, many of whom worked in farming, ranching and oilfield drilling and maintenance; in addition, a great number worked in San Antonio or surrounding areas.

The Pioneer Oil Refining Company site is located outside Somerset, adjacent to the municipal sewage treatment plant at 20280 South Payne Road. The population of Somerset in 2001 was 1447 with ethnicity for the county as follows:

White	68%
Black or African American	7.1%
American Indian & Alaska Native	0.8%
Asian	1.6%
Native Hawaiian and Other Islander	0.1%
Hispanic or Latino (of any race)	54.3%

History of Community Involvement

The Texas Water Commission (TWC) held a public meeting to propose listing of the Pioneer Oil Refining Company Site on the State Superfund Registry. The meeting was held on October 31, 1990, at 7 p.m., at the Community Center, 7995 6th Street, Somerset, Bexar County, Texas. The meeting notice was published in the *Texas Register* on September 25, 1990. An article was published on October 30, 1990 in the *San Antonio Express News* regarding the proposal of the Pioneer Oil Refining Co. site.

The TNRCC staff met with Mayor Fred Gonzales, on October 15, 2001 to brief him on the Pioneer Oil and Refining Company site. He also signed an access agreement for the City Right of Way. Staff also met with a resident, to get access agreement to install a monitoring well on his property to test the ground water.

Specific Objectives of the Community Relations Program

Maintain open communications between the TNRCC, Bexar County officials, City of Somerset, state officials, and concerned citizens.

Continue to expand and update the mailing list to include additional agencies, organizations and residents that indicated an interest in the project.

Provide a community relations contact from whom interested parties can receive information on site activities, project status, and study results.

Provide citizens, involved agencies, elected officials, civic leaders, and the media with accurate, timely information concerning site related activities by issuing fact sheets, press releases, and community meetings.

Brief field teams on community relations issues before performing on-site investigations.

Respond to telephone inquiries and written correspondence in a timely manner.

Provide all information, especially technical findings, in language that is understandable to the general public and in a form useful to interested citizens and elected officials through the preparation of fact sheets and news releases when major findings are made available during project phases.

Monitor community concerns and information requirements as project progresses.

Modify the Community Relations Plan to address changes in community needs and to maintain accuracy during different project phases.

Community Relations Techniques & Tools

Project Mailing List - To provide the means through which press releases, project status reports, and other significant communications can be distributed to concerned groups and individuals.

Public Consultations - To conduct informal meetings (if needed) with residents. To provide an opportunity for affected residents to express any concerns and to make inquiries to insure effective two-way communication.

Program Document Repositories- To maintain an easily accessible repository through which the public may review projects outputs. The public will be informed periodically of the availability of project documents and the location of the repository.

Superfund Internet- Progress of activities at the site is regularly posted to the TNRCC Superfund web site at: www.tnrcc.state.tx.us/permitting/remed/superfund/pioneer.html

ELECTED OFFICIALS

STATE

The Honorable Carlos I. Uresti
Texas House of Representatives
1114 S.W. Military Dr. Ste. 103
San Antonio, TX 78221

The Honorable Frank Madla
Texas State Senate
1313 S.E. Military Dr., Ste 101
San Antonio, TX 78214

The Honorable Janice Favor
Mayor-ProTem
City of Somerset
P.O. Box 356
Somerset, TX 78069

The Honorable Mary Alice Fuentes
Aldерwoman
P.O. Box 356
Somerset, TX 78069

COUNTY

The Honorable Nelson Wolff
County Judge
Bexar County Courthouse
100 Dolorosa
San Antonio, TX 78205

The Honorable Robert Tejeda
County Commissioner
Bexar County Courthouse
100 Dolorosa
San Antonio, Texas 78205

The Honorable Maria Shelton
Aldерwoman
P.O. Box 356
Somerset, TX 78069

The Honorable Sammy Fuentes
Alderman
P.O. Box 356
Somerset, TX 78069

Ms. Linda Wertz
City Administrator
City of Somerset
P.O. Box 356
Somerset, TX 78069

CITY

The Honorable Richard Padilla
Mayor
City of Somerset
P.O. Box 356
Somerset, TX 78069

Area Media

Leader News

P. O. Box 148

15207 Adams Street

Somerset, TX 78052

KEY PROJECT PERSONNEL

Mr. Subhash Pal, P.E.

TNRCC Remediation Division

Physical Address: 12100 Park 35 Circle
Building D, Room 200-31
MC-143
Austin, TX 78753

Mailing Address P.O. Box 13087
MC-143
Austin, TX 78711-3087

Telephone: 1-800-633-9363 or (512) 239-4513

E-Mail: spal@tnrcc.state.tx.us

Ms. Janie Montemayor

Community Relations Coordinator

Remediation Division

Physical Address: 12100 Park 35 Circle
Building D, Room 256N
MC-225
Austin, TX 78753

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 13087
MC-225
Austin, TX 78711-3087

Telephone: 1-800-633-9363 or (512) 239-3844

E-Mail: jmontema@tnrcc.state.tx.us

Program Document Repositories

Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission

Records Management Center

Physical Address: 12100 Park 35 Circle
Mail Code 199
Bldg. E, First Floor
Austin, TX 78753

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 13087, Mail Code 199
Austin, TX 78711-3087

Telephone: 1-800-633-9363 or (512) 239-2920

Cortez Branch Public Library
2803 Hunter Blvd.
San Antonio, Texas 78224
(210) 922-7372